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CLASS

CPYRGHT

Effort to Muffle Sound Of Shot Saves His Life

A prospective suicide's concern for fellow hotel guests probably saved his life yesterday, Homicide Squad detectives said.

Capt. Lawrence Hartnett identified the victim as Bruce G. Grant, 34, of Los Angeles, who registered at the Hamilton Hotel Tuesday. Police learned of his suicide attempt third-hand, by way of a veterinarian in Pittsburgh who called Lt. Col. Clarke P. Manning, an Air Force liaison officer here, to report that Grant had phoned that he had just shot himself.

Manning and a hotel official entered Grant's 6th-floor room to find him lying on the floor in a pool of blood, a bullet wound in his head. Police said Grant's aim apparently had

been impaired by a pillow with which he sought to muffle the shot from a powerful .357 Magnum revolver.

Sidelights to the case included Grant's removal of the gun's unfired shells which he placed beside the gun in a brief case in the dresser before collapsing. The spent shell casing was found in an overnight bag near the bed. Soaped on the bathroom mirror were the words, "To hell with the U-2!"

Manning said he and the Pittsburgh veterinarian had served with Grant in Korea before the latter was medically discharged from the Air Force.

Grant's condition at Andrews Air Force Base Hospital was described as "good."